

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Chat Log Saturday, 11 June 2011

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1101007.000

Medium: Computer Text File Printout

Author: Not stated

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: New Zealand

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification: Objectionable.

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 16 November 2011

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

The chat log is deemed to be objectionable because it tends to support the exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes.

The chat log is a record of an on-line conversation between two female participants, supposedly 17 years and 14 years of age. While there may be little disparity in the purported ages of the two participants, the clear difference in degree of sexual maturity creates a power imbalance. The log shows clear signs that the older girl is "grooming" the younger for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The older girl constantly exposes the 14 year-old to sexual ideas and images, describes her own sexual conduct and solicits a form of sexual contact. In the hands of a person with a sexual interest in children or young people the chat log would also provide a model for grooming a young girl for sexual exploitation.

The finding of "objectionable" is a reasonable limitation on freedom of expression. The purpose of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, and s3(2)(a) in particular, is to protect young and vulnerable members of society. The classification of the chat log is consistent

with Parliament's intention that publications falling under this criteria are deemed to be objectionable.